



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230
410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Shari T. Wilson
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary

March 10, 2010

The Honorable Maggie L. McIntosh, Chairman
Environmental Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 251
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

Re: House Bill 944 – Recycling - Bars and Restaurants – Beverage Containers

Dear Chairman McIntosh:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or “the Department”) Land Management Administration has reviewed House Bill 944, entitled *Recycling – Bars and Restaurants – Beverage Containers*, and we would like to express our support for the overall objective of recycling while opposing the bill due to the resource burden it poses on MDE.

The Department is supportive of many concepts that would result in reduced disposal and increased recycling of beverage containers and other recyclable materials. Waste diversion and recycling saves energy, reduces greenhouse gasses and other pollutants generated in the manufacturing process and at landfills, saves natural resources, and reduces the amount of waste disposed. Even in times of lowered market returns on recyclables, there are avoided disposal costs associated with recycling.

The Department’s fiscal note for this bill totaled more than \$165,000 in its first year for costs associated with hiring new staff to develop regulations, implement the legislation, determine the strategy for financial assistance to the beverage distributors, and manage the annual reports required to be submitted by the counties and the municipalities. It is assumed that a total of approximately 9,310 bars and restaurants and 150 distributors would benefit from this legislation. Funding for this new program would derive from the State Recycling Trust Fund, which receives funding from electronics manufacturer registration fees, newspaper and telephone directory publisher newsprint recycled content incentive fees, and vehicle manufacturer fees on mercury vehicle switches removed from end-of-life vehicles. In Fiscal Year 2009, the revenue to the State Recycling Trust Fund totaled \$317,694. Neither the bar and restaurant, nor the beverage distributor industries provide revenue to the State Recycling Trust Fund.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor House Bill 944 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-537-3304 or by e-mail at htablada@mde.state.md.us if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Horacio Tablada, Director
Land Management Administration

cc: The Honorable Doyle L. Niemann
Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Heather Barthel, Director of Legislation and Policy
Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison/Environmental Justice Coordinator